

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05315 01 OF 02 091326Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 GSA-02
ICAE-00 /085 W

-----066802 091355Z /40

O 091135Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2467

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRERIS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 5315

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: FM BOTHA'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN FROM N.Y.

FOLLOWING IS THE THE CITIZEN'S SEPTEMBER 9 ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN
MINISTER BOTHA'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN TO JOHANNESBURG
YESTERDAY, SEPTEMBER 8. BEGIN TEXT:

A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA WOULD GO IT ALONE OR
NOT IN THE FREE ELECTIONS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA WAS NOT FAR AWAY,
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR PIK BOTHA, SAID YESTERDAY
AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING FROM NEW YORK.
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR BOTHA SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION
COULD COME AT ANY TIME. THIS DEPENDED ON FURTHER MESSAGES HE
EXPECTED FROM NEW YORK. " I CAN'T EXACTLY SAY WHAT THE TIME

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 05315 01 OF 02 091326Z

LIMIT IS BUT IT WILL HAVE TO BE SOON." MR BOTHA CAUTIONED
SOUTH AFRICANS TO BE PATIENT " FOR A LITTLE LONGER". " WE HAVE
ALL BEEN LOOKING FOR FINALITY ON THIS MATTER FOR THE PAST 31
YEARS. WE MUST BE PATIENT FOR A LITTLE LONGER. IT IS NOT FAR AWAY."

HE SAID THERE WAS A MEASURE OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE
UN SECURITY COUNCIL ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S

DISCUSSION ON THE WALDHEIM REPORT. " BUT IF IT CONTINUES WITH THE WALDHEIM REPORT, SOUTH AFRICA'S COP-OPERATION WILL BE LACKING." MR BOTHA SAID HE HAD A REASONABLE IDEA OF WHERE SOUTH AFRICA NOW STOOD BUT HE FIRST WANTED TO DISCUSS THE POSITION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA BEFORE HE REVEALED SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION IN PUBLIC. MR. BOTHA, COMPLETELY RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THIS ATTITUDE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONTINUOUS ATTITUDE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT NOT TO TALK OR NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH SWAPO BECAUSE IT DOES NOT ACCEPT SWAPO AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA. REACTING AT THE CONFERENCE TO A CALL BY SWAPO LEADER, MR SAM NUJOMA IN NEW YORK, FOR A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO, MR BOTHA SAID: " WE ARE NOT ENTERING INTO ANY AGREEMENT WITH SWAPO. " SWAPO MUST SIMPLY ACCEPT THE WESTERN PEACE PROPOSAL, WHICH INCLUDES PROVISION FOR THE CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILITIES, AND WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED ON APRIL 25 THIS YEAR." SWAPO MUST ALSO STATE CLEARLY THAT IT WILL END ITS VIOLENCE". MR BOTHA PLACED ON RECORD THE FOUR MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE WESTERN PEACE PLAN AND THE CONTROVERSIAL WALDHEIM REPORT. HE TOLD REPORTERS HOW SHOCKED HIS DELEGATION HAD BEEN WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT DR WALDHEIM HAD SLIPPED ISSUES INTO HIS REPORT THAT WERE NEVER EVEN MENTIONED IN THE LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE WEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 05315 01 OF 02 091326Z

HE SAID IN THE FIRST PLACE THERE WAS NO FIGURE MENTIONED FOR THE UN MILITARY CONTINGENT IN THE APRIL 25 PROPOSAL. " THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT WHEN WE DISCUSSED THAT WITH THE WESTERN POWERS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, IT BECAME CLEAR TO ME THAT WE WERE HEADING FOR A DEADLOCK.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05315 02 OF 02 091352Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 GSA-02

ICAE-00 /085 W

-----067812 091356Z /40

O 091135Z SEP '8

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2468

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS FINAL SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 5315

" THE REASON WHY I RETURNED FROM NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY WAS EXACTLY BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM. " AT THE TIME THE KIND OF FIGURE THAT WAS MENTIONED WAS BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000. WE DID NOT WANT 3,000 AND WE WERE EVEN UNHAPPY ABOUT THE 2,000. BUT WE WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED 1,000 UN TROOPS IN NORTHERN SOUTH WEST AND ANOTHER 1,000 ON THE ANGOLA SIDE OF THE BORDER. " IN AN EFFORT TO MOVE OUT OF THE DEADLOCK WE THEN SUGGESTED TO LEAVE THE FIGURE OPEN. WE DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS KIND OF THING TO THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. " BECAUSE WHY SHOULD WE, SITTING IN NEW YORK PRETORIA AND CAPE TOWN OFFICES, TRY TO DETERMINE SUCH A FIGURE? BUT, OF COURSE, WE ALWAYS HAD IN MIND THE FIGURE MENTIONED BY THE WEST. " IT WAS NEVER HIGHER THAN 3,000, WHICH THE WEST KNEW WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO US. AND THEN SUDDENLY A FEW DAYS AGO WHEN WE WENT TO NEW YORK WE WERE CONFRONTED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 05315 02 OF 02 091352Z

WITH A FIGURE OF 7,500. YOU CAN IMAGE THE SHOCK. " IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE SITUATION. YOU ASK ME WHY THE DIFFERENCES? I'LL TELL YOU. WHEN WE WERE DISCUSSING THE REDUCTION OF SA TROOPS LAST DECEMBER I POINTED OUT TO THE WEST THAT WE CANNOT LEAVE THE TERRITORY'S NORTHERN BORDERS UNPROTECTED. " I WARNED THAT THE WHOLE SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ANGOLA WAS FLEXIBLE AND UNCERTAIN. THERE WERE MPLA SOLDIERS, AND CUBANS, WHILE UNITA WAS STILL FIGHTING AND APART FROM THAT THERE WERE MARAUDING BANDS RUNNING WILD ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. " THE WEST THEN SAID, SEEING THAT SA IS OBSESSED WITH FEAR OF SECURITY AND A WAR OF BLOOD, CAN'T SA THEN ASSUME THAT THE FRONTLINE STATES WOULD BACK A CEASEFIRE? " ONCE THIS WOULD BE SECURED AND SUPPORTED AND REINFORCED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, AND ONCE SWAPO HAS ACCEPTED THE CEASEFIRE, THERE WOULD BE TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE AND FIRM AND VISIBLE PEACE. " ALTHOUGH SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT BELIEVE THIS, IT AGREED ON CONDITION THAT THERE IS A COMPLETE PEACE IN WHICH CASE

SA WOULD REDUCE ITS TROOPS TO A CERTAIN MINIMUM OF 3,000. THEN
EVENTUALLY WE AGREED TO 1500 ON CONDITION THAT THERE IS AN END
TO VIOLENCE. " NOW SUDDENLY, WHEREAS THEIR REASONING OF TOTAL
PEACE WAS USED TO PERSUADE US TO ACCEPT A REDUCED NUMBER
OF TROOPS, THAT VERY SAME REASON SERVES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER
OF UN TROOPS."

MR BOTHA POINTED OUT THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL PRESCRIBED
COMPLETE CONSULTATION BETWEEN MR MARTTI AHTISAARI AND THE
ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, MR JUSTICE M T STEYN, THAT HE DID NOT
MENTION UN POLICE OFFICERS AND THAT IT STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT
DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR WAS THE LATEST DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE
SAID MR AHTISAARI HIMSELF ADMITTED THAT HE NEVER CONSULTED THE
ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL ON CRUCIAL ISSUES. " IF THIS IS
INDICATIVE OF MR AHTISAARI'S PERSONAL CONCEPT OF WORKING
CLOSELY TOGETHER, THEN I'M AFRAID WE ARE HEADING FOR DIFFICULTIES."
HE MADE IT CLEAR SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NEVER ACCEPT A UN POLICE FORCE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 05315 02 OF 02 091352Z

ASKED IF HE HAD RECEIVED ANY REACTION YET TO HIS LETTER TO DR
WALDHEIM, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN ONLY INFORMAL REACTION FROM THE
WESTERN POWERS.END TEXT.
EDMONDSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ACCOUNTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR05315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780367-1111
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780984/aaaacnr.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02797053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1493149
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FM BOTHA'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN FROM N.Y. FOLLOWING IS THE THE CITIZEN'S SEPTEMBER 9 ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN TO
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02797053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014